

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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-----096781 041510Z /47
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085891

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MASS, TW, US

SUBJECT:ROC REQUEST FOR 150 MORE M48A1 TANKS; CHINA TIMES
REPORT ON USG APPROVAL OF WEAPONS SALE TO THE ROC

REFERENCE: (A) TAIPEI 1456
(B) TAIPEI 1898

1. STATE AND DEFENSE, WITH NSC CONCURRENCE, HAVE APPROVED THE SALE TO THE ROC OF AN ADDITIONAL 150 M48A1 TANKS. EM-BASSY, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BROACH THIS SUBJECT WITH THE GROC BECAUSE DOD IS NOT SURE THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO SUPPLY THE ENTIRE NUMBER AUTHORIZED. THE LETTER OF OFFER FOR THESE 150 TANKS WILL NOT CONTAIN A TURN-IN PROVISION. THE LOA FOR THE LAST 100 M48A1 TANKS, WHICH WE APPROVED FOR SALE TO THE ROC IN 1977, DID CONTAIN TURN-IN PROVISIONS. AS DEPT IS NO LONGER CONVINCED OF THE IM-
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PORTANCE OF THESE TURN-INS, IT WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY UPON ANY GROC REQUEST TO BUY RESIDUAL RIGHTS TO M18 MOTOR GUN CARRIAGES AND M24 LIGHT TANKS WHICH ARE TO BE TURNED IN (REFTEL (A), PARA 3), OR TO AMEND THE LOA IN ORDER TO DELETE THE TURN-IN PROVISION.

2. APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN TO DOD TO PREPARE LOA'S FOR

ONE HUNDRED 155 MM AND ONE HUNDRED 8 INCH SELF-PROPELLED

HOWITZERS, AS WELL AS THE AN/TPS-43 RADAR SYSTEM. LOROP
CAMERAS REMAIN UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BUT NO DECISION
HAS BEEN MADE.

3. WE DO NOT KNOW THE SOURCE OF NORMAN FU'S ARTICLE. IN
ANY CASE, WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE EMBASSY NEITHER CONFIRM
NOR DENY BUT, IF PRESSED FOR COMMENT, REPLY ONLY THAT THE
USG HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION A NUMBER OF ROC REQUESTS TO
BUY WEAPONS. (FYI: WHILE THE M48A1 TANKS ARE THE FURTHEST
ALONG IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS, EVEN THEY DO NOT RECEIVE
FINAL USG APPROVAL UNTIL THE REQUISITE CONGRESSIONAL
NOTIFICATION PERIODS ARE COMPLETED. THE CASE HAS NOT YET
BEEN SENT TO THE HILL.) VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 04 apr 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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